

Post 12/19/64

Chiang Pilot Ditches U-2 In Arizona

TUCSON, Ariz., Dec. 18 (UPI)—A Nationalist Chinese pilot parachuted to safety today and his U.S. Air Force U-2 high reconnaissance plane crashed and burned during a rainstorm on the desert south of here.

The pilot was identified as Capt. Shi-hi Sheng, 28, of Taiwan. He is a member of the 4080th Strategic Wing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base here.

Col. Edward Jewett, Base information officer, said Sheng is the same pilot who ditched a U-2 near Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, last Aug. 14. He is among a group of Nationalist Chinese pilots training in the U-2 spy planes at Davis-Monthan.

[At the time of Sheng's August bailout, the Associated Press reported, the Base acknowledged for the first time it was training Nationalist Chinese.

[A U-2 aircraft costs about \$4 million.]

It was the third crash of one of the famous planes since the U-2 wing moved to Davis-Monthan in July, 1963. Maj. Robert Primrose of the 4080th Strategic Wing was killed Sept. 18 when his U-2 plunged into the desert about 200 yards from the end of a runway.